

The 2004 Women's History Month Honorees

Presented By

Public Affairs Section
U.S. Consulate General Lagos
Tel.: +234-1-263-4865/4868

Fax: +234-1-263-5753

Website: <http://nigeria.usembassy.gov/>

Sarah Buel (born 1953)

Domestic Violence Activist and Attorney, Educator

- ◆ Escaping domestic violence in her own life, Sarah Buel became an impassioned advocate for the legal rights of battered women and abused children.
- ◆ Because of Buel's advocacy, countless women and their children hold new hope and see new possibilities. Her work and that of hundreds of others like her helped create in 1994 *the Violence Against Women Act*.
- ◆ She is also co-founder and co-director of the National Training Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence.



Edna Campbell (born 1968)

Professional Basketball Player & Cancer Awareness Spokesperson

- ◆ A professional basketball player with the WNBA Sacramento Monarchs and a breast cancer survivor.
- ◆ In February 2002, she was given the devastating diagnosis of breast cancer. Overcoming the feelings of hopelessness and helplessness, Edna became determined to fight cancer.
- ◆ In short order, she became one of America's most visible advocates for breast cancer awareness. She travels the country, encouraging women to do regular breast exams and inspiring those with cancer to have hope and courage in challenging the disease.
- ◆ Her grace and joyful spirit through her trying ordeal have given new hope to all affected by this dreaded disease.



Jill Ker Conway (born 1934)

Writer, Educator & Historian

- ◆ She was born in the Australian outback in 1934. She lived on a sheep ranch until her father died in 1945, forcing the family to move to Sydney.
- ◆ Even though she had to drop out of school several times for family reasons, she earned her college degree in 1958 and a Ph.D. from Harvard in 1969.
- ◆ She was appointed in 1975, the first woman president of Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts
- ◆ In her three autobiographical books, Conway fearlessly shared her struggles and triumphs to serve as a guide and inspiration to others. Conway's stirring words have inspired and will continue to inspire a renewed hope for the possibilities that can be ours.



Marian Wright Edelman (born 1943)

Children's Advocate & Civil Rights Activist

- ◆ From her earliest years, she was encouraged to give hope and aid to others.
- ◆ A prolific author, lecturer, and proud social agitator, Edelman has touched the lives of countless children by providing the basic necessities of success—educational opportunity, equality, justice, and hope



Maxine Hong Kingston (born 1940)

Writer, Educator & Peace Activist

- ◆ In October 1991 as acclaimed writer and poet, she was returning from her father's memorial service she heard that a firestorm had swept through the hills of Oakland, California.
- ◆ These hardships became the fodder for her first two books, *Warrior Women* and *China Men*, both of which won the National Book Critic's Circle Award.
- ◆ She uses the process of storytelling to both heal and expand the human spirit.
- ◆ She blends her melodic and poetic storytelling ability with her rich Chinese ancestry and her own cultural struggles. Her writings are masterpieces that have helped recent generations discover the fullness of their own spirit.



Dr. Susan B. Love (born 1948)

Women's Health & Breast Cancer Research Expert

- ◆ She is one of the pioneers and founders of the breast cancer advocacy movement.
- ◆ Her mission is to encourage women to learn about their own bodies and to become politically active for necessary federal funding for breast cancer research .
- ◆ As a professor, she established the Faulkner Breast Center with all women staff and co-founded the National Breast Cancer Coalition with over 200 member organizations.
- ◆ Love's greatest impact came through her two best-selling books: *Breast Book* called "the bible for women with breast cancer" and has armed women worldwide with hope and understanding. *Menopause and Hormone* book is equally authoritative on issues concerning menopause



Vilma Martinez (born 1945)

Latina Civil Rights Attorney, Community Activist

- ◆ She first felt racial prejudice at an early age. She has been battling stereotypes and racial prejudice ever since.
- ◆ In her nine years as Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund's (MALDEF) president and general counsel, she turned the organization into a nationally significant institution that gives real political and legal voice to those suffering from racial discrimination.
- ◆ Vilma Martinez's steadfast determination to oppose discrimination and injustice presents an inspiring role model to all. Her lifetime reaffirms that hope and perseverance can create exciting and unimagined possibilities.



Leslie Marmon Silko (born 1948)

Writer, Poet, Educator

- ◆ She is from a mixed heritage—Anglo, Mexican, and Native American.
- ◆ Her goal has been to use her gift of story telling to promote the cultural survival of her people.
- ◆ She fights not just to preserve old stories, but also to recognize their essence today
- ◆ Her stories respect tradition while still promoting essential change to ensure that the Laguna Pueblo culture survives.
- ◆ A visionary, Silko brings to life the courageous and challenging existence of people often overlooked and dismissed. Her writing inspires hope and possibility for a people who have received little encouragement from other voices.



FLORA NWAPA (1931-1993)

Writer

- ◆ A famous Nigerian writer who was the first African woman to publish a book in English. Her most famous books include: *Efuru*, *Idu*, *Never Again*, *One is Enough*, *Women are Different*
- ◆ She was also an administrator, teacher, cabinet minister and owned her own publishing company. She died in 1993 at the age of 62.
- ◆ She inspired hope in women who were attempting creative writing.



Chief (Mrs.) Folake Solanke (SAN)

Lawyer, Administrator and Social Critic

- ◆ Woman of substance of many firsts
- ◆ First Female Commissioner for Western Region
- ◆ First female Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN)
- ◆ First African Past International President, Zonta International (1994 - 1996)
- ◆ She has always encouraged women to aspire to greater heights.



Chief (Mrs.) Fola Ighodalo

Administrator

- ◆ Folayegbe Mosunmola Akintunde-Ighodalo is still respected for her enormous role in women's leadership. In 1968, she was renowned as the first Nigerian woman to become a permanent secretary in any of the Nigerian government services.
- ◆ She has provided a unique voice speaking and writing on women's empowerment for almost fifty years.

Prof. (Mrs.) F. Adetoun Ogunsheye

Educationist, Professional Librarian & Writer

- ◆ Born in December 5, 1926, Benin-city, Edo State
- ◆ Headmistress, Anglican Girls Secondary School, Ilesa (1952 – 1953)
- ◆ First Professor of Library Studies in Nigeria (1973)
- ◆ Head of Department of Library Studies, University of Ibadan (1973 – 1977)
- ◆ Director, Abadina Media Resource Center, University of Ibadan, Ibadan. (1974 -1987)
- ◆ President, Nigerian Association of University Women, 1971-1975)
- ◆ President, Nigeria Library Association (1969 – 1971)
- ◆ President, Nigeria Schools Libraries Association (1977-78)
- ◆ President, Association of African Library Schools (1978)

Professor Bolanle Awe

Historian and Administrator

- ◆ First Female Professor of African History
- ◆ Former Director of the Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan.
- ◆ A Commissioner of Education in the former Western State
- ◆ She was the founding Chair of the Women's Research and Documentation Center (WORDOC) in 1998.
- ◆ Formerly Country Coordinator of the MacArthur Foundation.
- ◆ First Chair of the Nigerian National Commission for Women
- ◆ She has served and is still serving in positions on several National and International organizations

Prof. Grace Alele Williams (born 1932)

Educationist

- ◆ Grace Alele Williams received her education at Queens College in Lagos, University College at Ibadan, and the University of Vermont, before receiving a Ph.D. in mathematics education from the University of Chicago in 1963
- ◆ Professor Grace Alele Williams was one of the first Nigerian women to obtain a PhD.
- ◆ She was also the first Nigerian female Vice-Chancellor (Uniben 1985-1991).
- ◆ Consultant - U.N.E.S.C.O.
- ◆ Member - Commission on Women in Mathematics in Africa
- ◆ Vice President – TWOWS (Third World Organization for Women in Science) Executive Board (1999-2002)

Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti

Women's Rights Activist

- ◆ She was a Women's Rights activist in the early 1900's.
- ◆ She was the first Nigerian woman to drive a motor car in Nigeria.
- ◆ She was a member of delegation which traveled to U.K. to petition for democratic governance and independence.
- ◆ She fought the military against the unjust arrest of her son (Fela) and sustained a leg injury which resultant complications allegedly led to her death.
- ◆ She was an anti-nuclear activists challenged French nuclear testing in the Sahara.
- ◆ Mother of the late Professor Olikoye Kuti, Beko Ransome-Kuti and Fela Anikulakpo Kuti.
- ◆ She fought for the emancipation of women her whole adult life.



Laila Dogonyaro

Women's Rights Activist

- ◆ She is from Jigawa State.
- ◆ She is also one of the foremost activists for the women liberation struggle. In her hey days, she moved round the country projecting the Nigerian women's issues with unusual passion.
- ◆ She is a past president of the National Council of Women Societies (NCWS), the umbrella body for all women liberation associations



Margaret Ekpo (born 1914)

Nigerian Woman Activist and Politician (OON, CFR)

- ◆ Proprietor and Instructor, Mary's Boutique, Lagos 1971
- ◆ Political Detainee (1966 - 1970)
- ◆ Women Representative, World Women's International Domestic Federation Conference, Moscow, USSR now Soviet Russia, 1963)
- ◆ Member, House of Assembly, Eastern Region, 1960-66)
- ◆ Member, Nigerian Delegation, Constitutional Conferences, London and Lagos (1953, 1957, 1958, 1959)
- ◆ Founding member, defunct National Council of Nigeria Cotozens(NCNC)
- ◆ Nominated Member - House of Chiefs, Eastern Region (1954)
- ◆ Member of Parliament, Aba Urban North (1960-1966)
- ◆ Founder & Proprietor, Windsor Domestic Science and Sewing Institute, Aba (1948 – 1966)





Thank You